Suit Against Garrison Survives Court Test

Post 1-25-77

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 24 (UPI)— The Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled today that the estate of businessman Clay Shaw can seek damages from one-time District Attorney Jim Garrison for trying to link Shaw to the 1963 assassination of John F. Kennedy.

A three-judge appeals court held that even though Shaw died before his suit against Garrison was tried, the estate could pursue the suit under federal common law.

Shaw, a retired trade expert, was charged in 1967 with conspiring with Lee Harvey Oswald and others to assassinate Kennedy. Garrison claimed that the Warren Commission report on the Kennedy slaying was a fraud, and disputed its finding that Oswald was the lone assassin. Shaw was acquitted in 1969, after a 40-day trial, by a jury that deliberated just 55 minutes.